

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 AGR-01 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CEA-01 OES-07 /120 W

-----141529Z 063680 /50

R 141415Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8222

INFO OECD CAPITALS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, ETRD

SUBJ: UNCTAD-GROUP B MEETING JUNE 13 TO REVIEW STATUS OF FORTH-
COMING MEETINGS

REF: (A) STATE 116934, (B) STATE 118266, (C) STATE 135733

(D) GENEVA 4082

1. SUMMARY: ON JUNE 13 GROUP B IN GENEVA MET TO
REVIEW THE STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS,
I.E., TDB MINISTERIAL, AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INTEGRATED
PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES, COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES, THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES, AND THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF PAYMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTERIAL LEVEL TDB. GROUP B CHAIRMAN MONTGOMERY (CANADA)
REPORTED THAT UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IS NOW TAKING COUNDINGS
WITH G-77 ON WHETHER TDB MINISTERIAL SHOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR
SEPTEMBER. IN MEANTIME, THE QUESTION OF DATE FOR DEBT EXPERTS
MEETING BEING KEPT FLUID. IF G-77 AGREEABLE TO POSTPONE-
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MENT, SECRETARIAT WOULD THEN TAKE UP MATTER WITH OTHER GOUPS.
MONTGOMERY SUGGESTED THAT BEST GROUP B TACTIC WOULD BE
TO LIE LOW FOR THE PRESENT. HE REPORTED SECRETARIAT WAS
CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE REACTION FROM LEAST DE-
VELOPEDS TO POSTPONEMENT OF THIS MEETING. US STATED
THAT WE ALSO HAD INDICATIONS FROM SECRETARIAT THAT IT
WISHED TO SEE TDB MINISTERIAL POSTPONED AND, ON BASIS

REFTEL C, REPORTED THAT WE WOULD FAVOR SUCH POSTPONEMENT. ON TACTICS, WE AGREED WITH MONTGOMERY THAT IT PROBABLY IN-ADVISABLE FOR GROUP B TO TAKE FORMAL ACTION AT THIS TIME. WE ALSO INDICATED THAT IF TDB IS IN FACT POSTPONED WE BELIEVE NOT ONLY DEBT EXPERTS MEETING BUT MEETING OF EXPERTS ON "INTERDEPENDENCE OF TRADE, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS" SHOULD ALSO BE POSTPONED. WE ALSO REPORTED THAT IF PRESENT SEPTEMBER DATE WERE TO BE MAINTAINED WE FELT STRONGLY THAT AGENDA WOULD NEED TO BE BROADENED. US HAS SOME IDEAS ON HOW THIS SHOULD BE DONE BUT IN VIEW LATENESS OF HOUR AND IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY THAT POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE ARRANGED, WE WOULD NOT GIVE DETAILS NOW. WE STATED, HOWEVER, WE WOULD WANT EARLY GROUP B DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT IF SEPTEMBER DATE MAINTAINED. ONLY OTHER DELEGATION TO INDICATE POSITION ON POSTPONEMENT WAS FRENCH, WHICH REPORTED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR POSTPONEMENT. EC COMMISSION UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DECISION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, AND STRESSED THAT IF THERE WAS POSTPONEMENT, IT SHOULD BE WELL INTO 1978.

3. THIRD MEETING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES. GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG GROUP B MEMBERS IS THAT MAIN ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE PROBLEMS IN SCHEDULING OF COMMODITY MEETINGS FOR REMAINDER OF 1977 AND 1978 AND ATTENDANT PROBLEMS OF DOCUMENTATION. NORWAY WAS ONLY DELEGATION INDICATING AN INTEREST IN USING AHC FORUM FOR BROAD DISCUSSION OF MAJOR POLICY ISSUES INCLUDING THE COMMON FUND AND PROGRESS UNDER THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IPC. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ITSELF WAS CAUTIONING AGAINST GETTING INTO SUBSTANCE ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF OTHER MEETINGS TO FOLLOW IN FALL. EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN ALSO WARNED THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION COULD UPSET SITUATION FOR SUCH COMMODITIES AS SUGAR, RUBBER AND COPPER WHERE WORK OR NEGOTIATIONS WERE ALREADY UNDERWAY. CONSENSUS ALSO EXPRESSED THAT GROUP B SHOULD NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN PROPOSING ANY EXTENSION OF 93 (IV) TIMETABLE BUT LET SECRETARIAT'S SCHEDULING AND DOCUMENTATION PROBLEMS PLUS DIFFICULTIES FACED BY LDCE IN COVERING OVERLAPPING MEETINGS SERVE TO BRING ISSUE ONTO FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. FOLLOWING A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FRUSTRATIONS EXPERIENCED IN SEVERAL OF THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETINGS, CHAIRMAN ALSO INDICATED SECRETARIAT IS CONSIDERING PROPOSING THAT REMAINING FIRST PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR COMMODITIES UNDER THE IPC BE RESTRICTED TO ONE OR TWO DAY MEETINGS OF LOCAL GENEVA REPS SIMPLY TO REVIEW PAPERS AND THEN WORK OUT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCHEDULE FOR ONGOING WORK PROGRAM. NO OTHER SUGGESTED

AGENDA ITEMS WERE MENTIONED. US SPOKESMAN MENTIONED CONCERN OVER UNCTAD ORGANIZATION OF OR PARTICIPATION IN COMMODITY SEMINARS OUTSIDE GENEVA FOR LDC PRODUCING COUNTRIES AS RAISED IN REFTEL (A). OTHER COUNTRIES SEEM LESS (OR NOT) CONCERNED BUT JAPAN, SUPPORTED BY BELGIUM, SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE TO REQUEST SECRETARIAT TO HOLD SEMINARS FOR CONSUMERS AS WELL WHEN PAPERS ARE IN FINAL DRAFT STAGES.

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4. GROUP B COORDINATION AND OECD MEETINGS ON COMMON FUND. GROUP B COORDINATOR ON COMMON FUND (BARRASS) WILL REPORT TO GROUP B GENEVA ON RESULTS OF JUNE 20 MEETING AT OECD ON COMMON FUND, SOMETIME DURING LAST WEEK IN JUNE. GROUP WAS TOLD THAT PURPOSE OF PARIS MEETING IS TO ORGANIZE PREPARATION OF ISSUES PAPERS AND DEVELOPMENT OF POSITION FOR NOVEMBER NEGOTIATING SESSION ON CF. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT JULY 7-8 OECD MEETINGS ON CF MIGHT ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS POSITION FOR AHC ESPECIALLY THE SCHEDULING ISSUE. THERE WILL ALSO BE GROUP B MEETING IN GENEVA BEFORE JULY 11-15 TO PREPARE FOR AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING.

5. MANUFACTURES COMMITTEE MEETING. BRUNGART (US) DESIGNATED AS GROUP B COORDINATOR. GROUP B WILL MEET WITH KRISHNA-MURTI OF UNCTAD SECRETARIAT AND HIS KEY STAFF JUNE 22 TO

DISCUSS PLANS FOR MEETING INCLUDING STATUS OF DICU-
MENTATION. SAME MEETING WILL ALSO DEAL WITH MEETING OF
PREFERENCES COMMITTEE PRECEDING WEEK. GROUP B
WILL HAVE INTERNAL MEETING JUNE 21 IN PREPARATION FOR
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THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH UNCTAD SECRETARIAT. IF THERE ARE
ANY POINTS DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO RAISE, PLEASE PROVIDE
BY MORNING JUNE 21,

6. CONCERNING SUBSTANCE OF MANUFACTURES COMMITTEE
MEETING, GRANCH REP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TEXTILE QUESTION
BEING DISCUSSED AT HIGH-LEVEL ELSEWHERE, AND SUGGESTED
WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE FOR UNCTAD MANUFACTURES COMMITTEE
TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION. FRG SUGGESTED MANUFACTURES
COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF TEXTILES SHOULD TAKE FORM OF BROAD
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITHOUT ATTEMPT TO DECIDE ANYTHING.
CONCERNING FANANCING OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, FRENCH SUG-
GESTED THIS SHOULD BE HANDLED BY CIFT RATHER THAN MANU-
FACTURES COMMITTEE, AND AT MEETING ON JUNE 22 GROUP B
SHOULD TRY TO GET CLARIFICATION OF JUST WHAT SECRETARIAT
HAS IN MIND. GROUP BE CHAIRMAN MONTGOMERY EXPRESSED VIEW
THAT LDGS WOULD MOVE UNRESOLVED CIEC TOPICS INTO UNCTAD
PROMPTLY WITHOUT WAITING FOR HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION AT GA.
HE EXPECTED THIS PROCESS WOULD BEGIN AT MANUFACTURES
COMMITTEE AND THAT IT OULD BE IMPORTANT FOR GROUP B
DELEGATES TO COME ARMED WITH COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE (AND
TEXTX) OF HOW MATTERS ON MANUFACTURES COMMITTEE AGENDA
WERE LEFT IN CIEC. BELIEVE BRIEFING FOR US DELEGATION
SHOULD COVER THIS ASPECT.

7. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES. GROUP B SPOKESMAN
FOR THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES MEETING, JUNE 27-
JULY 1, WILL BE GROUP B CORRINATOR WILLIAM MONTGOMERY.
THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WILL INCLUDE PREFERENCES IN THE
INFORMAL CONCLUTATION WITH GROUP B ON JUNE 22.
GROUP B WILL ALSO USE ITS JUNE 21 MEETING TO COORDINATE
ITS OWN POSTION ON BOTH THE PREFERENCES MEETING AS WELL
AS THE COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES MEETING. WE WOULD AP-
PRECIATE HAVING ANY WASHINGTON THINKING ON THE MEETINGS
BY JUNE 21.

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8. EXPERTS MEETING ON MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF PAYMENTS.
THERE WAS NO OVERALL GROUP B REACTION TO THE U.S. NOTE

CIRCULATED CONCERNING THE GROUP'S PARTICIPATION IN THE
RXPERTS MEETING AND TO REPLYING TO THE SYG'S INQUIRY
(REFTELS B AND D). THE FRENCH DELEGATE ANNOUNCED THAT
HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO ATTEND AND URGED OTHER
GROUP B MEMBERS TO ALSO ATTEND. HE STATED THAT THE
U.S. NOTE WAS A GOOD "STARTING POINT" FOR A JOINT GROUP B
ANSWER TO THE SYG'S NOTE SHOULD THERE BE A DESIRE FOR A
JOINT GROUP ANSWER (WHICH THERE WASN'T). THE UK BASICALLY
AGREED WITH THE U.S., BUT SOUGHT SOME CLARIFICATION AS TO
WHAT WAS MEANT BY "FREELY CONVERTIBLE" CURRENCY. HE DID
NOT KNOW OF THE UK PLANS TO ATTEND. THE FRG IS NOT
ANSWERING THE INQUIRY, BUT THOUGHT GROUP B SHOULD BE
REPRESENTED. THE NETHERLANDS HAS ANSWERED, STATING THE GON
HAS NO EXPERIENCE OR KNOWLEDGE IN THE MATTER. COMMENT:
THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE U.S. SUBMIT ITS PROPOSED
REPLY INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY GROUP ACTION. SINCE FRANCE
WILL BE THE OVERALL GROUP B COORDINATOR AT THE TIME
OF THE EXPERTS GROUP MEETING, THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE
COULD BE "DEPUTIZED" TO REPRESENT ALL OF GROUP B.
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